

MESOPOTAMIAN MINUTE

- Current News on Agriculture & USDA in Iraq -

Office of Agricultural Affairs, U.S. Embassy, Baghdad

Sunday, September 11, 2011



The USDA sponsored 10 Iraqi Soil Scientists – The USDA sponsored 10 Iraqi soil scientists on an educational trip to Lincoln, Nebraska earlier this year to learn how to make soil surveys and plot soil formations on maps. They have been meeting regularly since then to create a soils map of Iraq. The next time they meet they will receive 3 maps of Iraq. One is a general soils map of Iraq, another is a general agricultural production map and the third is an aerial view of the country of Iraq. In addition to the maps they will receive a poster from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) National Soils Laboratory the 12 Soil Orders

found throughout the world.

The Iraqi Red Meats Association holds a field trip – The Iraqi Red Meats Association recently held a field trip to demonstrate proper handling, feeding, body condition scoring and use of hormones in cattle at the Baghdad University College of Veterinary Medicine. 43 farmers participated from all around the country. This field trip was the culmination of the second half of a six month training series. Participants were very excited by the training, despite it being hot and after the start of Ramadan. All participants received certificates for attending the training series, and were also given a Sheep Flock Management Guide (a donation from Premier1 Livestock Supply).

Personnel Update - There are currently 11 USDA personnel in Iraq at Embassy Baghdad and Mr. Sean Currans with Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRT) Basrah. With this issue we say good bye to James Helm, Tierney Bill and George Stickels who did a rock solid job as Ag Advisors to PRTs Diyala and Kirkuk Provinces.

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